

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend paragraph [0038] as follows:

[0038] To more clearly realize the novelty of the finger platform, FIG. 3 indicates a typical fork handle 14 11A that is generally of a uniform thickness. As FIG. 3 depicts, the improved universal fork 10 has added material to cause a bulging of the shaft top 16 and bottom 17 side surfaces, in a manner in which a flat surface 15 is able to be defined to provide an area commensurate with the area that a typical forefinger fingertip 62 will contact, as shown in FIG. 4. This added material, as compared with a typical fork handle 14, creates the finger platform upon which a person's finger can press against. This finger platform allows a person to utilize the cutting edges of a fork 10 more efficiently through the distribution of forces from the finger to the fork.

Please amend paragraph [0040] as follows:

[0040] As seen from a top view, such as shown in FIG. 1, a fork 10 having an enlarged handle grip 12 is shown, with the outer tines 32 and 32' exhibiting an exaggerated widened portion, as compared with a typical fork. A typical fork outer tine has an outer edge as shown by dashed line 33 and 33'. The improved universal fork 10 has incorporated an extended outer edge area 34 and 34', which comprises an extended width of the outer tine 32 and 32', having a curved outer edge 35 and 35'. The curved outer edge 35 and 35' follows an arcual path, and will comprise a curved surface arcing thirty degrees or more. As FIG. 9 shows, the curvature may even approach or exceed ninety degrees of curvature, when defining the first curvature vector 44 as the start of the arcual

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outer edge 35 where it protrudes outward from the head 14, with the second vector 45 being the edge angle at the tip 66 of the outer tine 32.